



**COAST GUARD
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
JACKSONVILLE**



7820 Arlington Expressway Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32211-7445
Phone: (904) 232-2640
Fax: (904) 232-1014

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Personnel Training and Qualifications on Passenger Ships

New requirements on training and certification aboard U.S. passenger ships are being established by an interim rule in 46 CFR Parts 10, 12 and 15. These requirements will apply to masters, certain licensed officers and certain crewmembers on any vessels inspected under CFR subchapters H, T or K, other than roll-on/roll-off passenger ships, carrying more than 12 passengers on international voyage.

The purpose of this ruling is to incorporate what was previously an international STCW mandate into domestic rules. This will have the effect of placing requirements on not only all crewmembers, but undocumented deckhands as well. As a result, the Coast Guard hopes to decrease the incidence of casualties brought about by crew who are not familiar with basic safety and emergency procedures aboard U.S. ships. Specifically, 46 CFR parts 10 and 12 will now require certain licensed officers and seamen to complete training required by STCW Regulation V/3 when serving on the aforementioned vessels. Furthermore, 46 CFR part 15 will necessitate that the individual holds documentary evidence to show they meet the requirements of part 10 (if licensed) or part 12 (if unlicensed).

This interim rule (docket number USCG-1999-5610) is available electronically at www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html. Enter "10/30/2002" on date field and "Coast Guard" on search term field. Comments can be sent by fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251 or electronically through the website for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>. For further information contact Mark Gould, Project Manager at 202-267-6890.

R. J. PETOW
Alternate Captain of the Port
Jacksonville, Florida